the wedge shaped cut.

Photo #2 shows the part that must be matched up with the same area on the rootstock before you can expect the graft to take. This is the cambium layer. It is the green area between the hard wood which is white and the brown area which is the bark. The cambium is the growing part of the plant. This is where new cells are formed and the two pieces will heal and grow together. The point of the knife is used as a pointer and is inserted just at the edge of the inner part of the cambium. The cambium is easy to see when one cuts the cion wood.

Now skip down to photo #5. This is the rootstock before starting. Dip the clippers in the sterilizing solution and clip off the top of the rootstock about six inches above the top of the can. If you do not intend to cover the entire plant with plastic then this top can be left on or at least do not take off so much. The top will act as shade if one does not use the plastic bags. More about that later.

Photo #6. Again sterilize the grafting knife and make a cut diagonally into the rootstock. The straighter this cut the better. The beginner tends to start his cut too crosswise to the rootstock and then curve down until he is parallel to the length of the stock. This makes a curved cut and is harder to bind so that the cambium is pressed together. This photo shows the cion wood almost in place.

Now jump back to photo #3, This shows the cion in place ready to bind. Usually if the bark of the stock and the cion fits smooth and even the cambium will be matched. If either the cion or the stock has very thick bark a little allowance should be made. If the cion and the stock are the same size both sides can be matched. This usually isn't the case so refer to

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photo #4. This is the back side of the graft. You will note that the bark is not lined up. Don't worry about this. If the front is right this back will heal over in time.

Photo #7 & #8 show the wrapping steps. The author uses rubber grafting strips about 1/8" wide. They also come in 1/4" widths. Some like the new plastic strips which work fine. Some use nothing but a snap clothspin to hold the cion wood in place till it heals. The purpose is to bind the cion and the stock firmly together until it heals.

You have now made your first graft. It could be left just as it is. But the more we can do to assure its survival the better. Waxing will keep out moisture which will promote fungus and rot. It will keep out insects that might use this spot for an easy meal. Grafting wax preparations are on the market if one wants to use them. The author uses a combination. Paraffin and the commercial wax melted together is good. The commercial wax is sticky and messy to use but when melted with paraffin and applied with a small brush it seems to work fine. Keep the wax just above the melting point, not too hot. Be sure to cover all the cut areas and in the crotch formed by the cion and the stock.

The next step is to tag the plant with the correct variety name. It gets rather disgusting to find a nice growing graft with no tag. The final step is to cover the plant with a plastic bag. The author uses a polyethlene candy bag that will just fit the top of the quart can. Be sure the soil is moist before putting the bag on. Then it will not have to be removed until the graft has healed, growing and ready to be trimmed. Put the new graft in the shade and sit down in the shade with a long cool drink. You have just finished your first graft.

When the new graft is growing well the bag can be

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